



WALPOLE

Norfolk County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

A group of sawmill residents who built along the great Cedar Swamp petitioned the Annual Town Meeting of Dedham in 1721 for the privilege of becoming a separate Town with their own minister. Their petition was finally accepted in 1724 and they chose their Town's name in honor of the Prime Minister of England, Sir Robert Walpole. The route of the Post Road traversed Walpole in which weekly postal service began in 1693 between New Hampshire and Baltimore; then later the first stagecoach line in New England which began in 1718. This ideal location is just 19 miles south of Boston and 26 miles north of Providence, and now has Routes 1, 1A, 27 as well as MBTA Commuter Rail and bus service to Boston. Because of the natural resources of Great Cedar Swamp, bog iron and the Neponset River which falls 151 feet in Walpole, industry was attracted to locate early in Walpole. The community has always maintained an industrial tax base. Yet because of its vast 20 square miles of beautiful land, many families have found the charm of its rural character to be an ideal place to raise a family. Thus, the Town has evolved over time into a growing bedroom community with a stable mix of commercial and industrial land uses. The townspeople are known for their typical New England hard work ethic, a very competitive attitude, particularly in sports; a strong pride in community and its schools and promotes as its motto: "Walpole, The Friendly Town".

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Dover on the north, Medfield and Norfolk on the west, Foxborough on the south, Sharon and Norwood on the east, and Westwood on the northeast. Walpole is 18 miles southwest of Boston; 25 miles northeast of Providence, Rhode Island; and 205 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 20.99 sq. miles

Land Area: 20.53 sq. miles

Population: 20,212

Density: 985 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Blue Hill Station)

Normal temperature in January.....25.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....49.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Medfield, Norwood, Wrentham, Mansfield

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 660-7296

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Representative Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1724

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%
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Total Registered 12,518

Democrats 3,763 30.1 % Republicans 1,808 14.4 % Other parties 5 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 6,942 55.5 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Walpole town, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	22,824	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	22,824	100.0
Male.....	11,412	50.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	461	2.0
Female.....	11,412	50.0	Mexican.....	42	0.2
Under 5 years.....	1,543	6.8	Puerto Rican.....	202	0.9
5 to 9 years.....	1,732	7.6	Cuban.....	33	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,702	7.5	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	184	0.8
15 to 19 years.....	1,279	5.6	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	22,363	98.0
20 to 24 years.....	822	3.6	White alone.....	21,582	94.6
25 to 34 years.....	2,714	11.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	4,277	18.7	Total population.....	22,824	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	3,364	14.7	In households.....	21,888	95.9
55 to 59 years.....	1,157	5.1	Householder.....	8,060	35.3
60 to 64 years.....	941	4.1	Spouse.....	5,094	22.3
65 to 74 years.....	1,666	7.3	Child.....	7,490	32.8
75 to 84 years.....	1,150	5.0	Own child under 18 years.....	5,666	24.8
85 years and over.....	477	2.1	Other relatives.....	752	3.3
Median age (years).....	38.8	(X)	Under 18 years.....	170	0.7
18 years and over.....	16,925	74.2	Nonrelatives.....	492	2.2
Male.....	8,397	36.8	Unmarried partner.....	218	1.0
Female.....	8,528	37.4	In group quarters.....	936	4.1
21 years and over.....	16,401	71.9	Institutionalized population.....	909	4.0
62 years and over.....	3,831	16.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	27	0.1
65 years and over.....	3,293	14.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,356	5.9	Total households.....	8,060	100.0
Female.....	1,937	8.5	Family households (families).....	5,972	74.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	2,850	35.4
One race.....	22,679	99.4	Married-couple family.....	5,094	63.2
White.....	21,777	95.4	With own children under 18 years.....	2,504	31.1
Black or African American.....	363	1.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	676	8.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	24	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	298	3.7
Asian.....	257	1.1	Nonfamily households.....	2,088	25.9
Asian Indian.....	67	0.3	Householder living alone.....	1,817	22.5
Chinese.....	109	0.5	Householder 65 years and over.....	928	11.5
Filipino.....	6	0.0	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,966	36.8
Japanese.....	12	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	2,357	29.2
Korean.....	27	0.1	Average household size.....	2.72	(X)
Vietnamese.....	20	0.1	Average family size.....	3.23	(X)
Other Asian ¹	16	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	8,229	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	8,060	97.9
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	169	2.1
Samoa.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	27	0.3
Some other race.....	256	1.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.8	(X)
Two or more races.....	145	0.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.2	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	8,060	100.0
White.....	21,895	95.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	6,860	85.1
Black or African American.....	397	1.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,200	14.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	52	0.2	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.85	(X)
Asian.....	309	1.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.92	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	6	-			
Some other race.....	316	1.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 138

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 3

Federal (Section 8): 127



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Walpole is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 27 and U.S. Route 1. Interstate Route 95 runs through the northeast corner of town and forms an interchange with Route 1 in neighboring Sharon.

Rail

Commuter rail service is available to Back Bay Station and South Station, Boston, from Walpole. Travel time to BBS:29-41 min.; 377 MBTA parking spaces. Conrail provides freight rail service through Walpole. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

Bus

Walpole is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). The MBTA provides service to Forest Hills Station on the Orange Line.

Other

The Norwood Memorial Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 4,001'x 150' and 4,007'x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

None

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Harrington House Nursing Rehab. Center

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.